

REMARKS

In the Official Action dated September 20, 2000,
the Examiner entered a Restriction Requirement.
Specifically, the Examiner identified the following six
groups of claims as reciting patentably distinct inventions:

<u>Group</u>	<u>Claims</u>
I.	1 to 12, 35 to 46 and 87, directed to a stiffness-treated fabric (Class 442/59);
II.	13 to 34 and 47 to 54, directed to a method of making a stiffness-treated fabric (Class 427/372.2);
III.	55 to 59, directed to a stiffness-treated prepreg ply (Class 442/381);
IV.	60 to 64, directed to a method of making a stiffness-treated prepreg ply (Class 156/60);
V.	65 to 76, directed to a stiffness-treated honeycomb sandwich structure (Class 428/116); and
VI.	77 to 86, directed to a method of making a stiffness-treated honeycomb sandwich structure (Class 156/60).

In response, Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to prosecute the subject matter of Group III (Claims 55 to 59) in the present application. Applicants reserve all rights to the subject matter recited in non-elected Claims 1 to 54 and 60 to 87, including the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter recited therein.

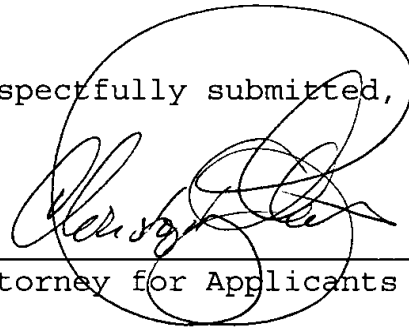
Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement. Without conceding the Examiner's characterization of the claimed invention, Applicants believe that a thorough search of the relevant art for Group III necessarily will require substantial consideration of the art relevant to Groups I, II and IV to VI. In particular, the subject matter of the claims of each of Group I and Group III is related as a novel subcombination or element used in a novel combination (Group V), and the subject matter of the claims of Group VI is closely related to the subject matter of the claims of Group V as a method of making the novel structure of Group V using the subcombination of Groups I and III. Accordingly, separate search and examination by separate Examiners may lead to duplicate work and inconsistent results; Applicants submit that it would be administratively and economically preferable to search and

examine all of the claims together, and thus request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn and that at least the claims of Groups I, III, V and VI be examined in the present application.

Applicants believe that the present paper is fully responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and consideration on the merits of all pending claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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